



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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COURTS IMPOSE HEAVY FINES
FOR ILLEGAL DUCK HUNTING

As evidence of the increased seriousness with which violations of the Migratory-Bird Treaty Act and Regulations are being regarded by Federal courts, it is pointed out by the United States Department of Agriculture that during January, reports reached the Bureau of Biological Survey indicating fines of \$100 each assessed in 10 cases. In 2 of these the defendants were required to pay court costs in addition. Nine of the 10 fines were imposed in January, the other in December.

Four States were represented by these cases--5 of them occurred in Louisiana, 2 in Illinois, 2 in Mississippi, and 1 in Wisconsin. The offenses involved the possession of wild ducks in close season, sale of wild ducks, and killing wood ducks, woodcock, and wild ducks during the close season. There were altogether 100 cases of violation of the Migratory-Bird Treaty Act terminated in January. In addition to the fines noted, a Maine hunter was fined \$50 for killing ducks after sunset, and there were 7 cases where the fine was \$25 and costs for killing ducks, grebes, sandpipers, or insectivorous birds. Fines ranging from \$1 to \$25, with costs sometimes exceeding the fine, were imposed for killing nighthawks (or bull-bats), bitterns, turnstones, knots, godwits, gulls, thrushes, gallinules, grebes, flickers, robins, woodpeckers, and doves, and for possessing a night heron.

Recommendation was made for prosecutions in 83 cases, involving many kinds of violations of the Migratory-Bird Treaty Act and Regulations, during the month. Hunting from motorboats was a particularly troublesome form of law-breaking in many States.

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